

MARVEL

515

WAID
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MEDINA
VLASCO

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic FOUR®



ha!
MO!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR

4

A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary—and extraordinary. As of today:

3

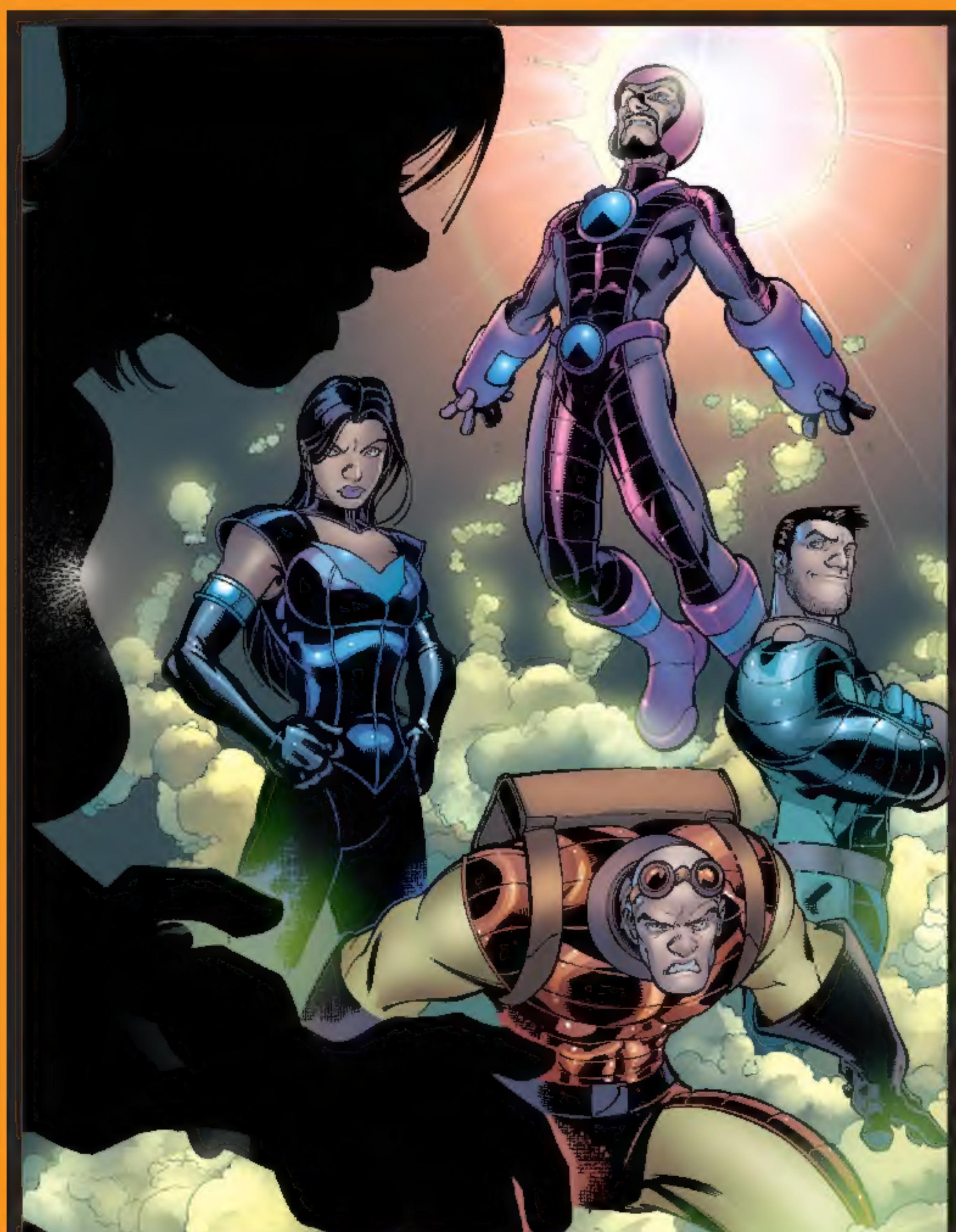
The Bad News: the evil genius called the Wizard has re-formed his infamous “Frightful Four”—more a dark reflection of the Fantastic Four than ever before since, in addition to Hydro-Man and the always loyal Trapster, the Wizard has recruited his haughty and venomous ex-wife, Salamandra.

2

The Good News: Johnny has met an intriguingly beautiful and mysterious girl named Cole.

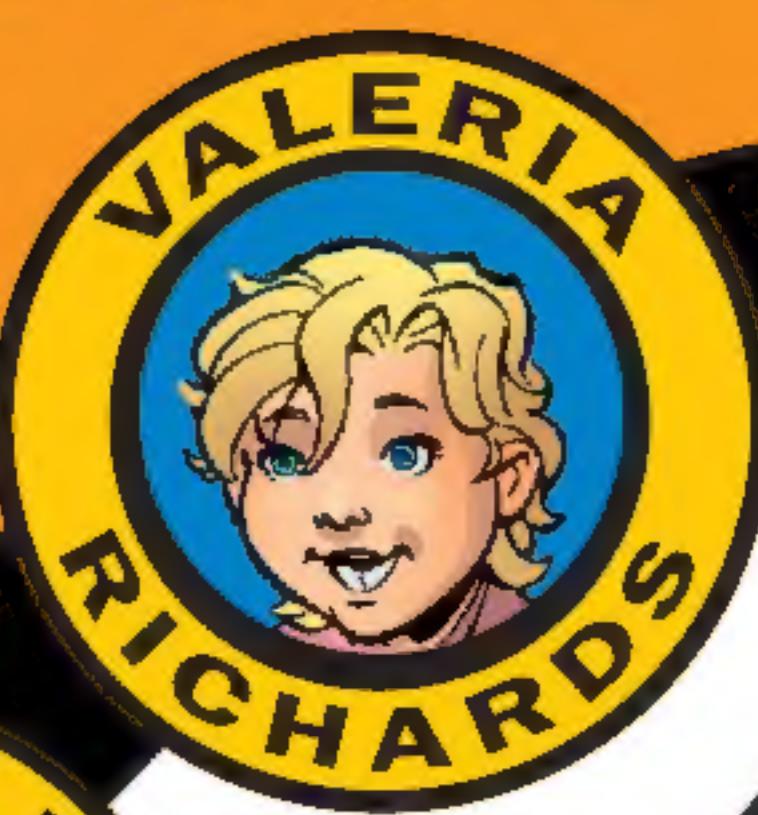
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The Bad News: She's the Wizard's daughter.



STAN LEE PRESENTS

"DYSFUNCTIONAL"



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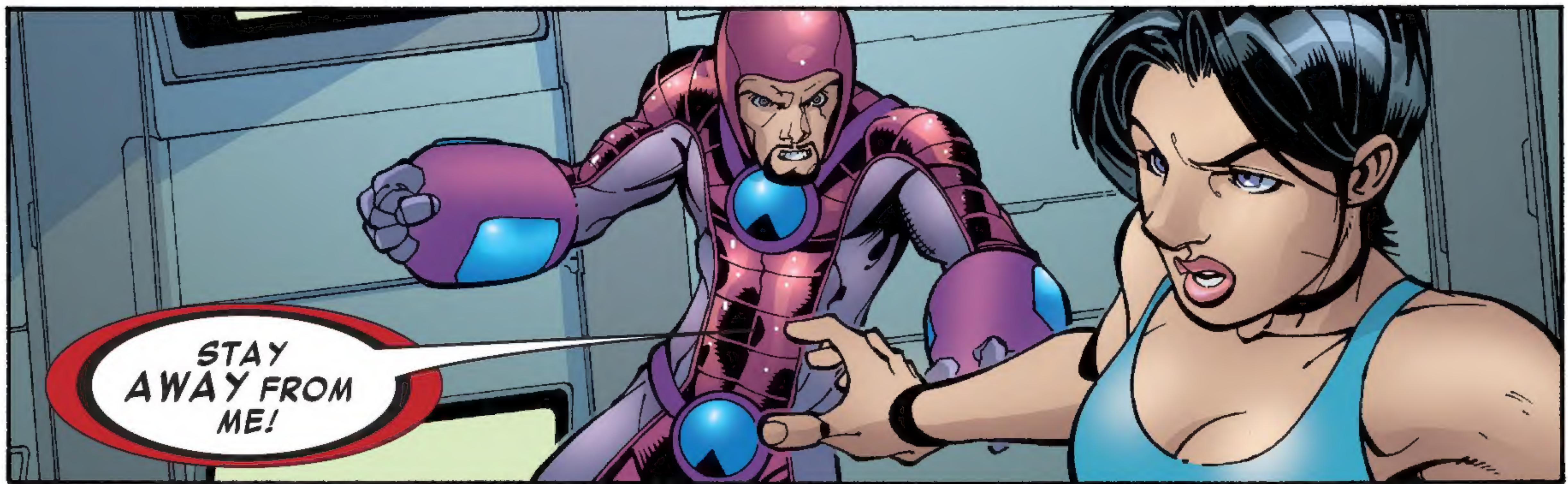
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**Part
2 of 3**

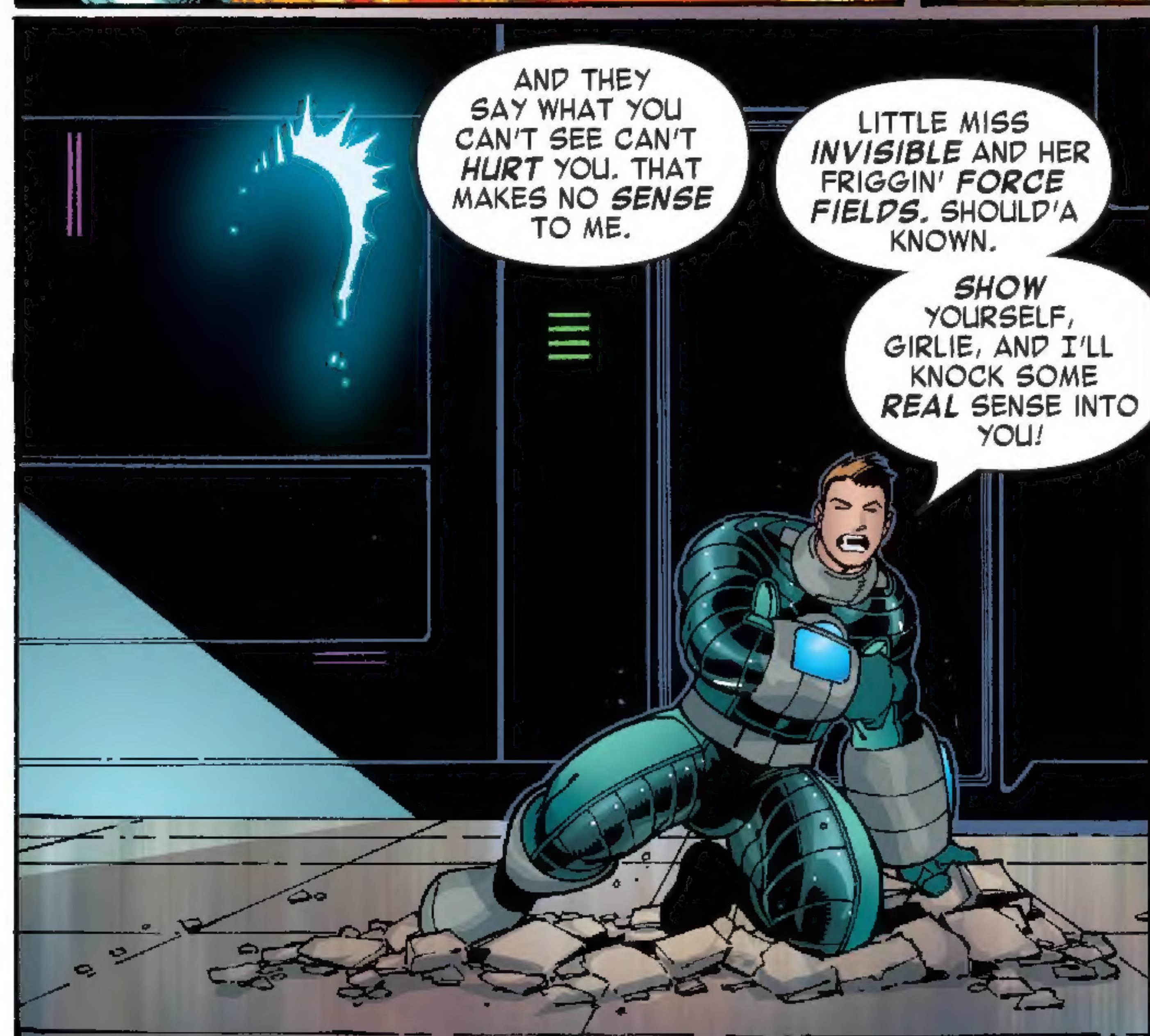


...WHILE
THE REST OF US
DEAL WITH THE
**FANTASTIC
FOUR!**

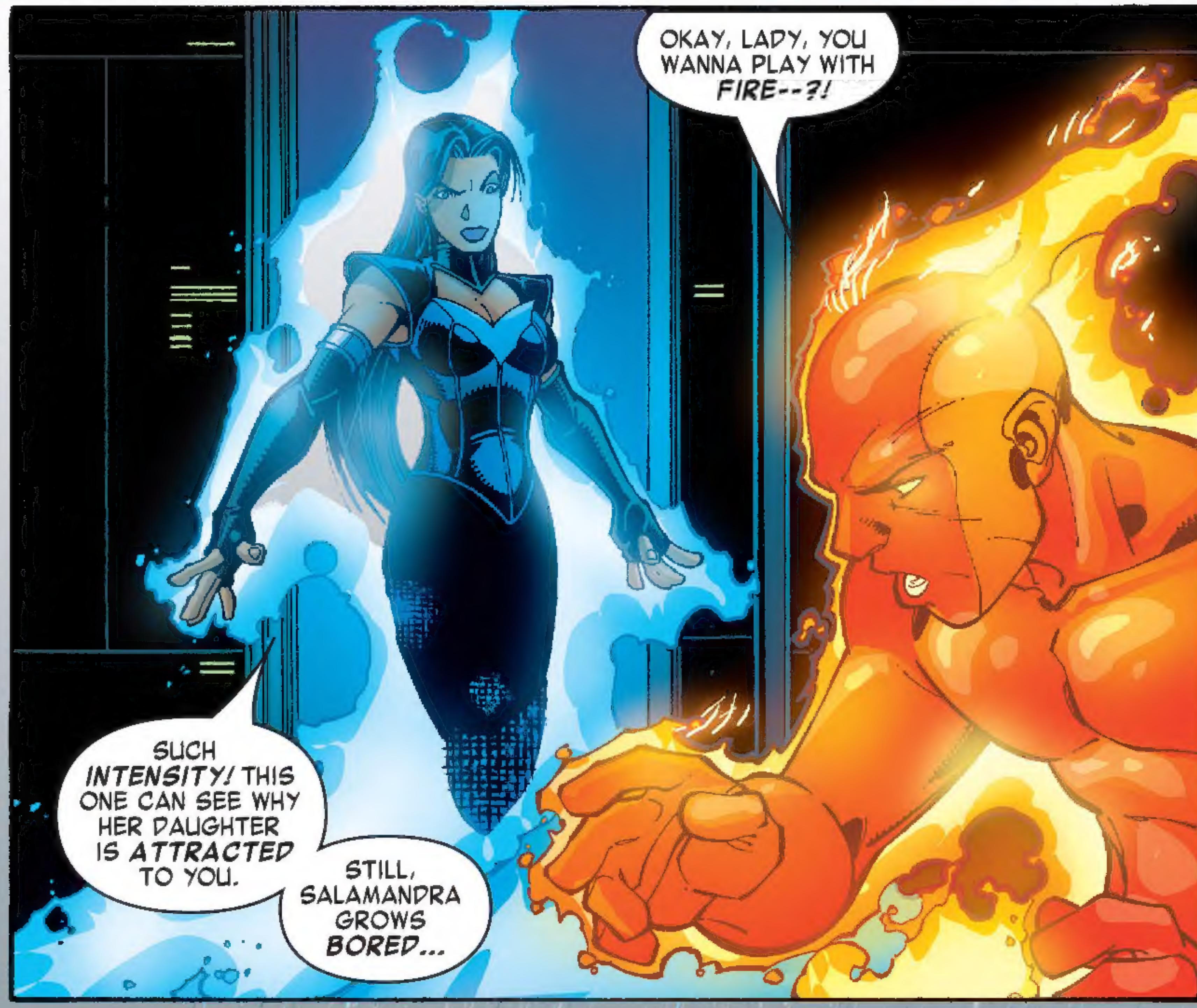
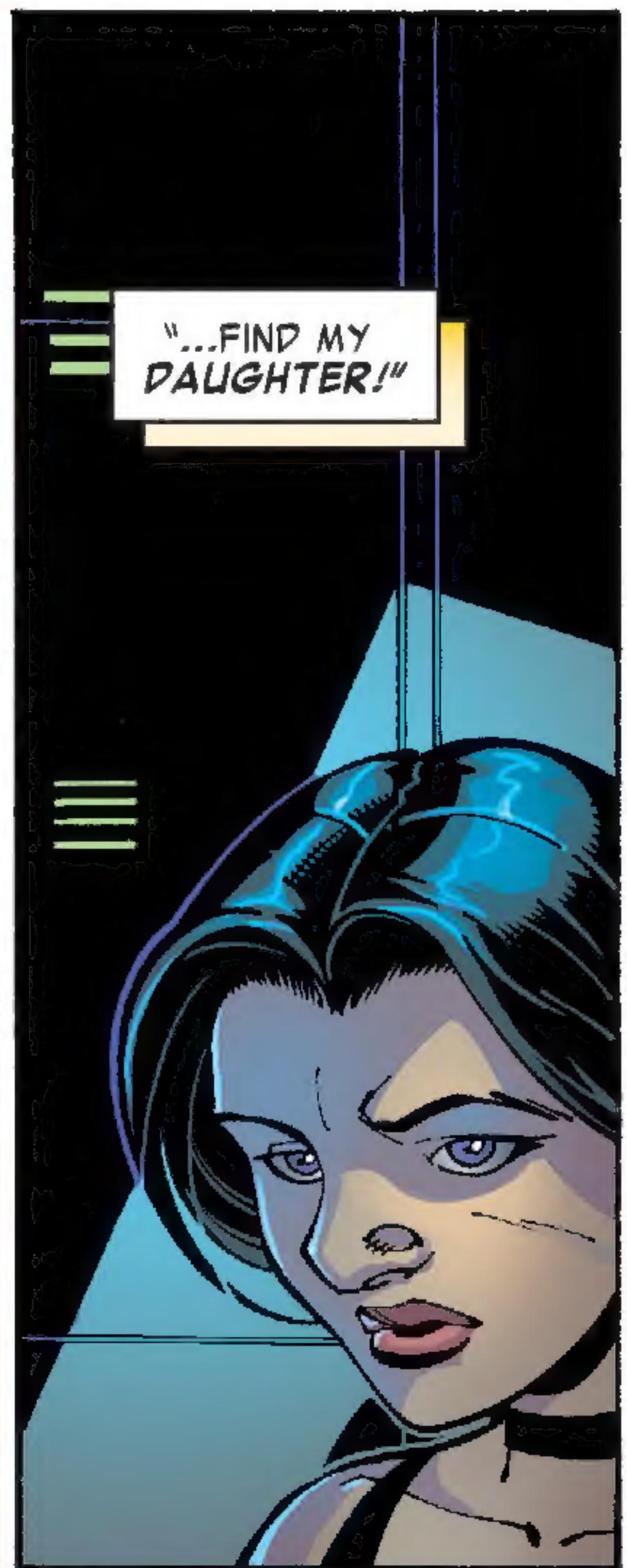
DID YOU
HONESTLY THINK
YOU COULD CATCH
US UNAWARE?

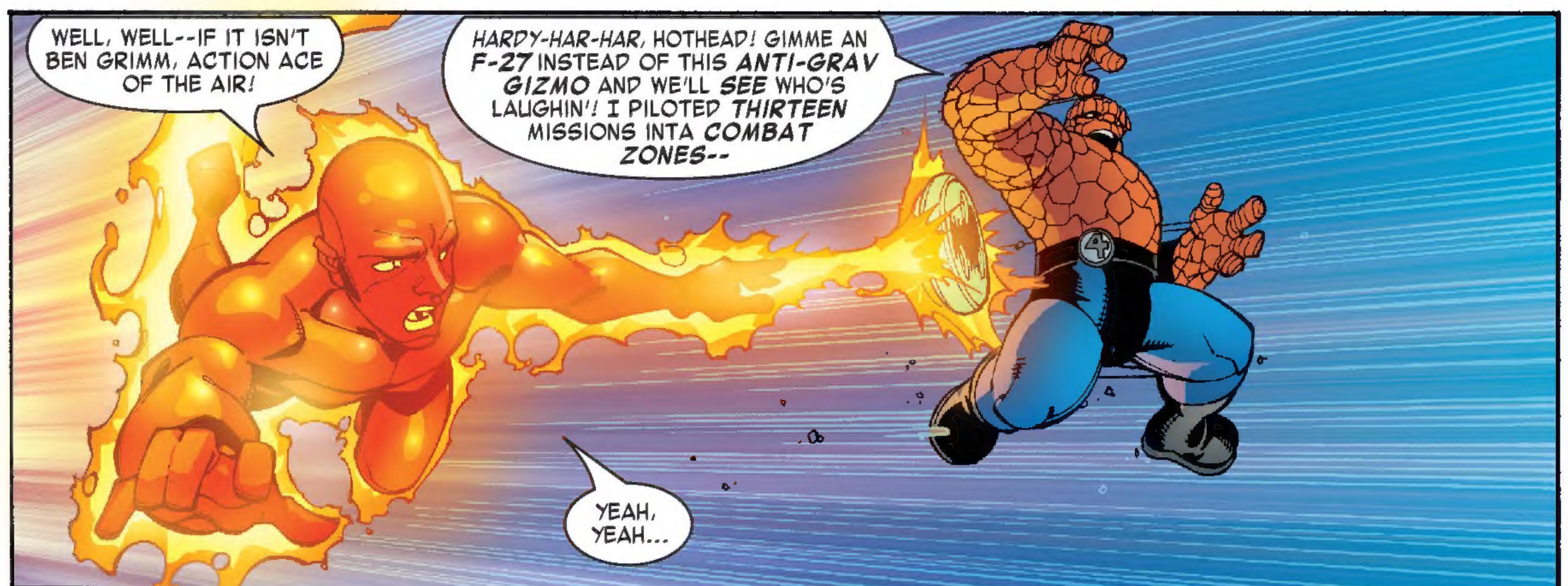
FUNNY--
CONSIDERIN' YOU
GUYS'RE SNEAKIN'
INTA OUR PLACE,
I WAS GONNA
ASK THE SAME
THING!

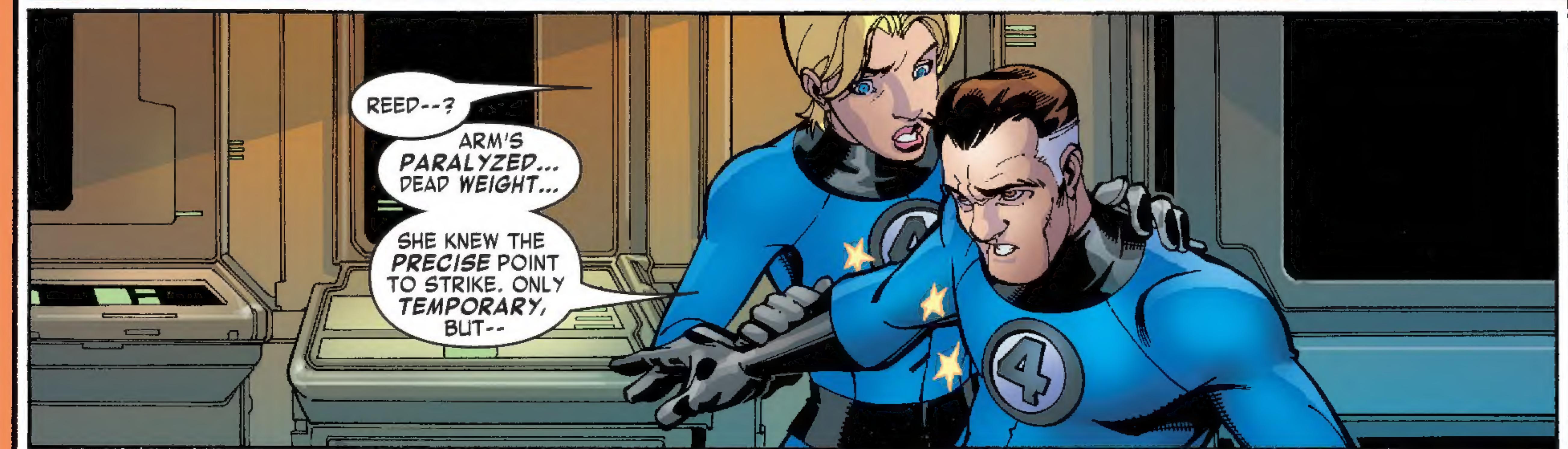
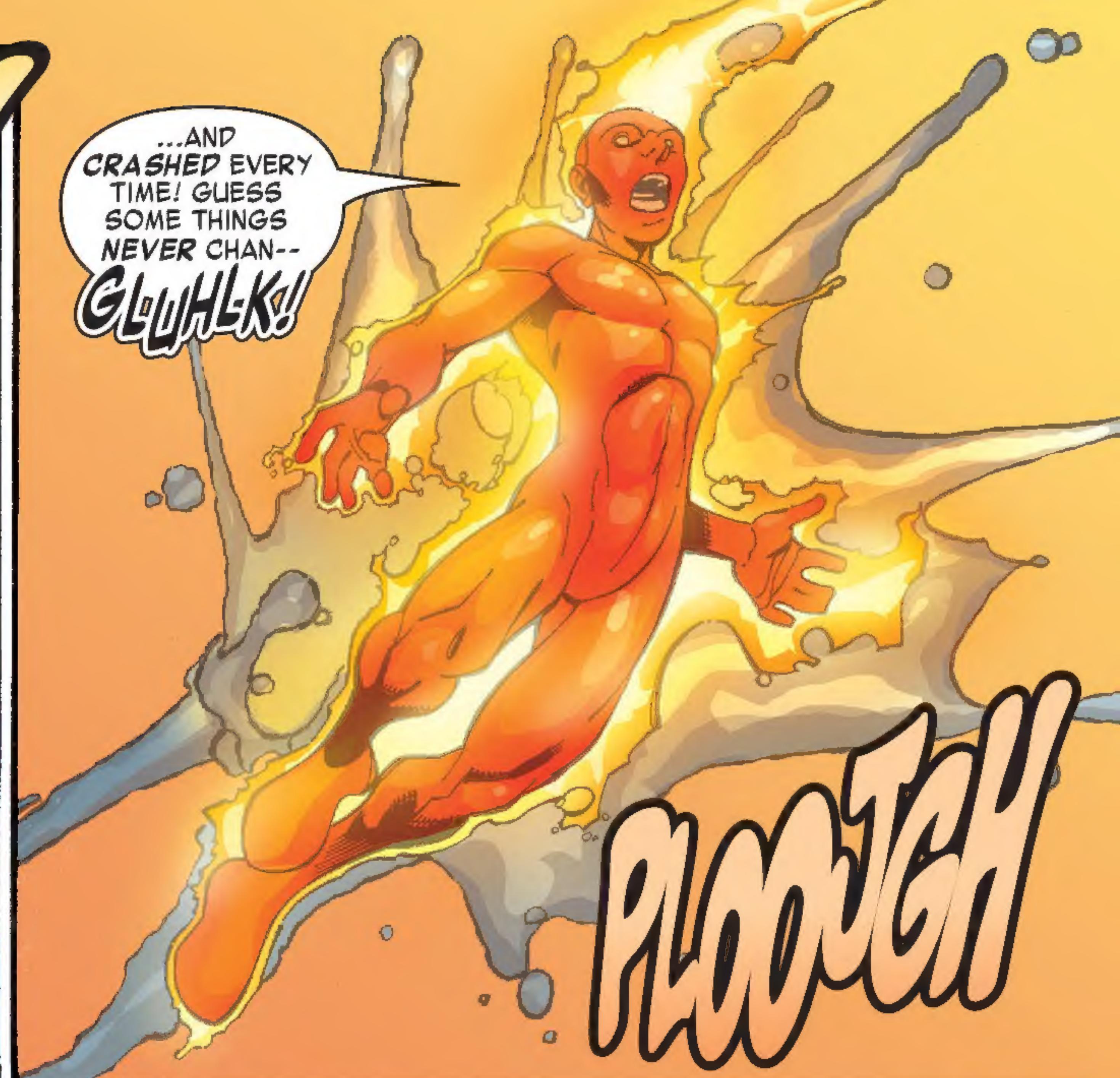


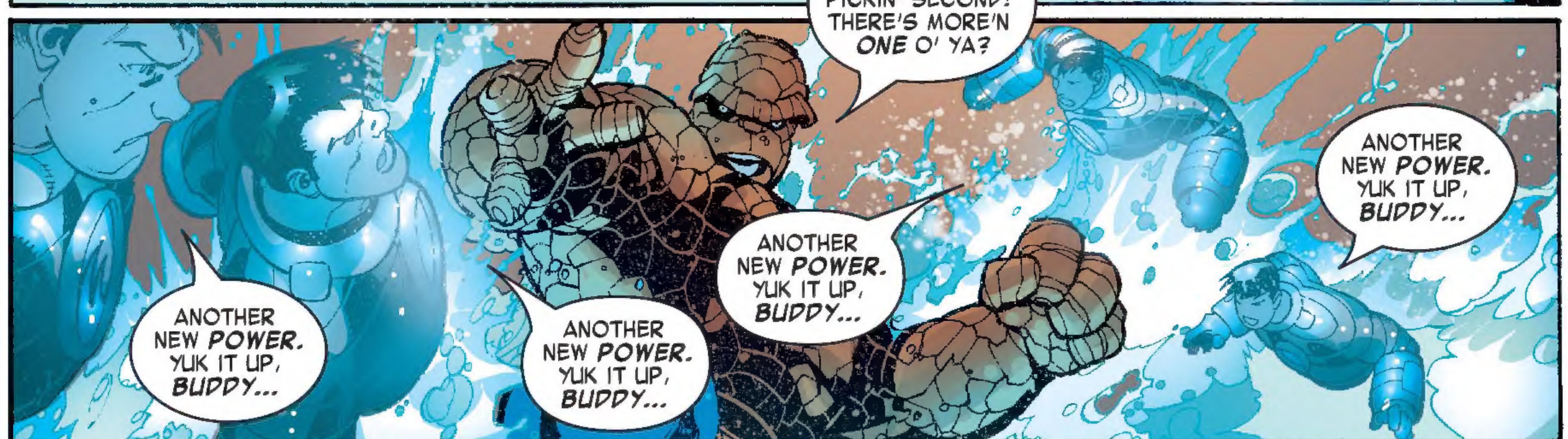
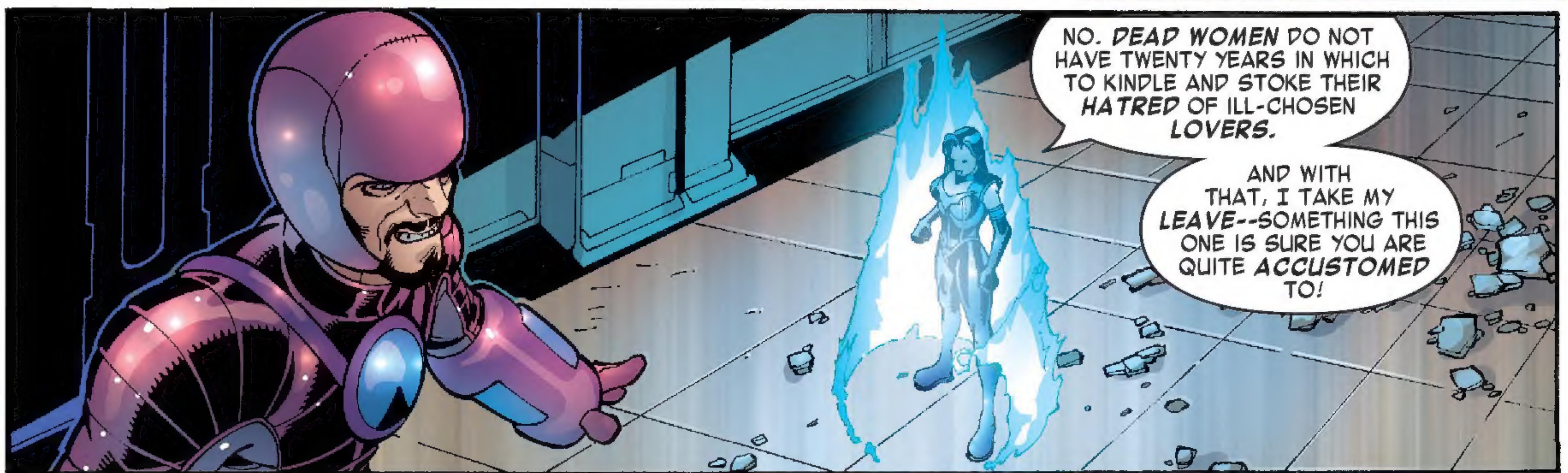


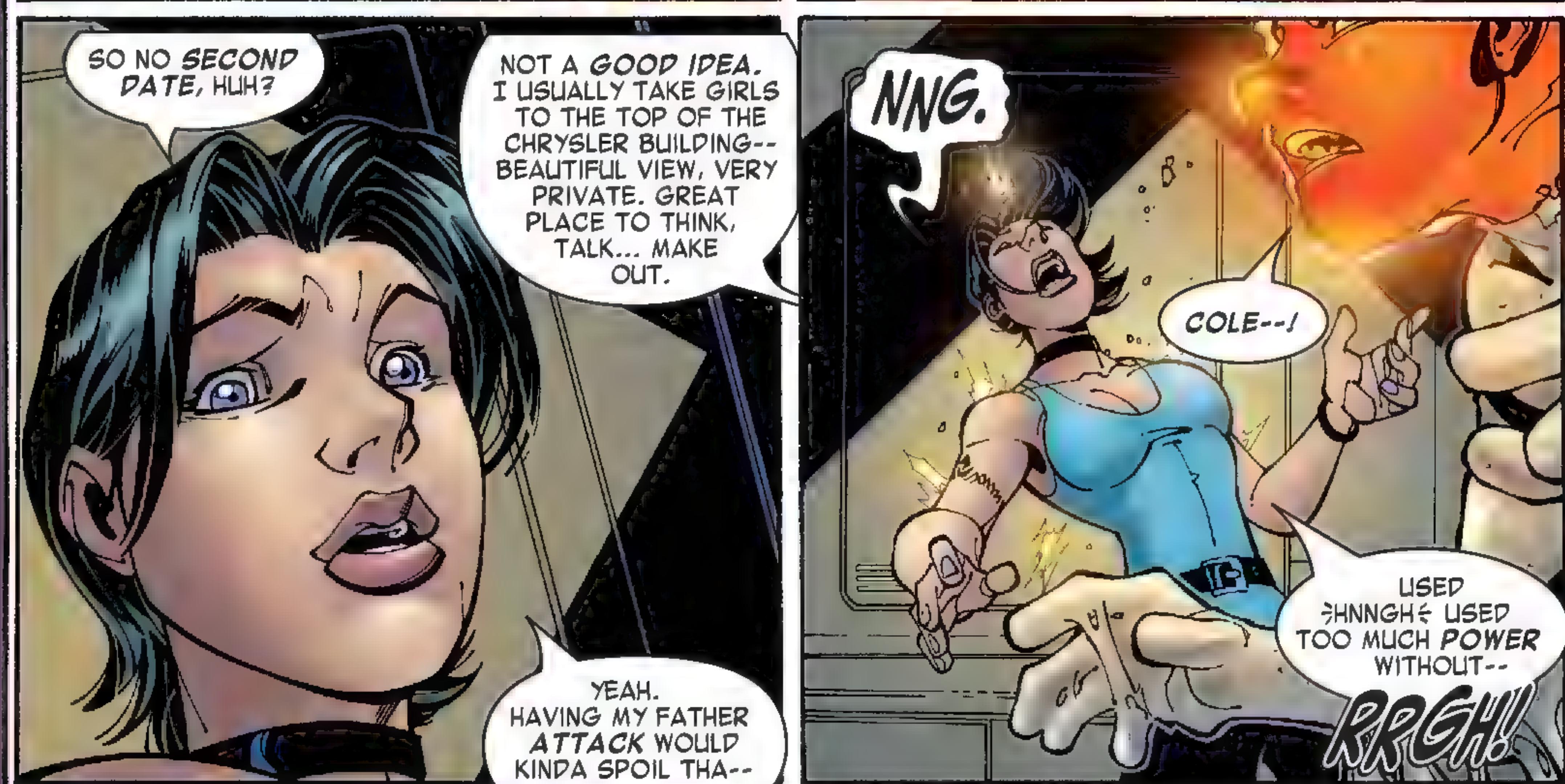
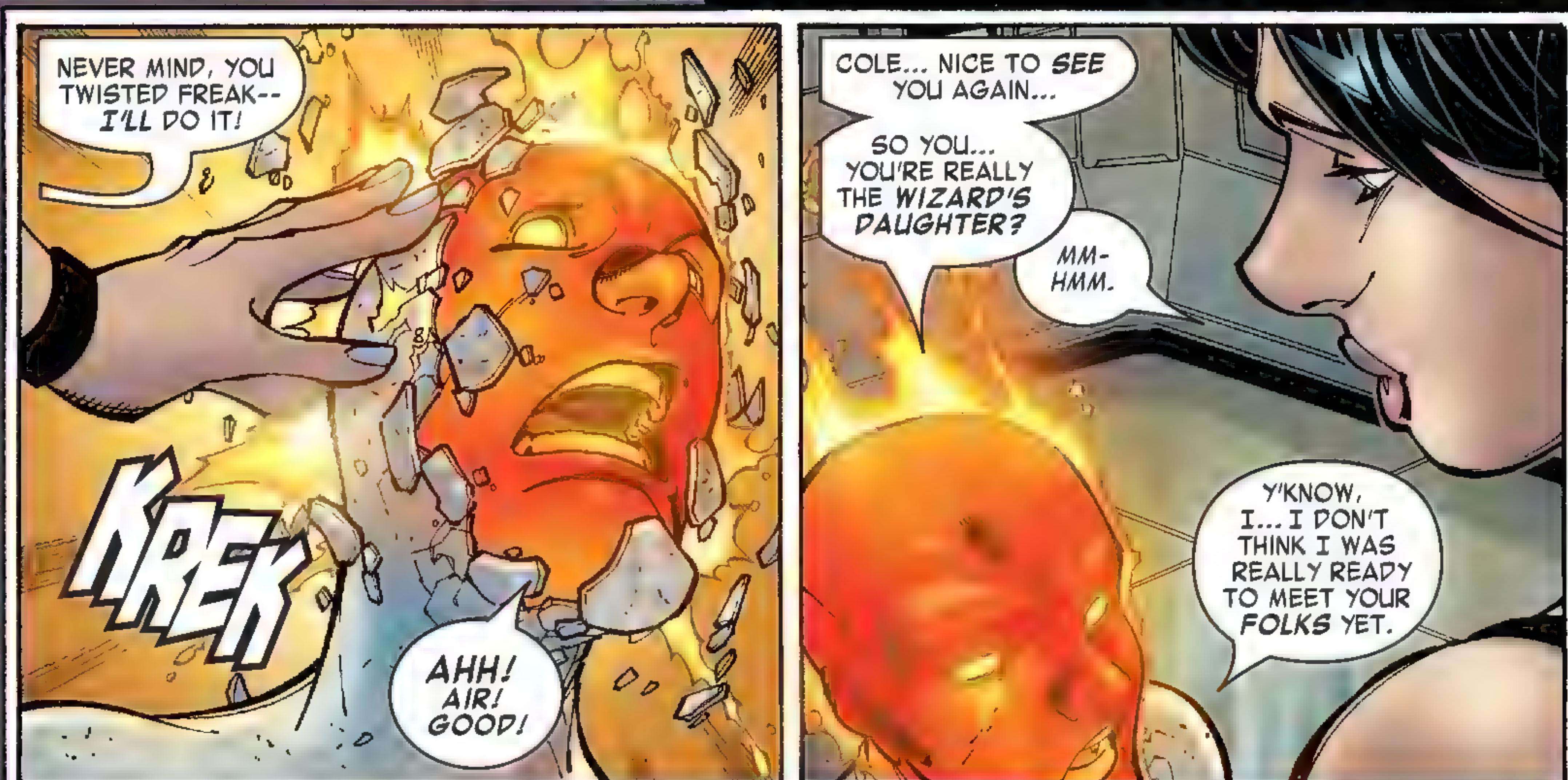
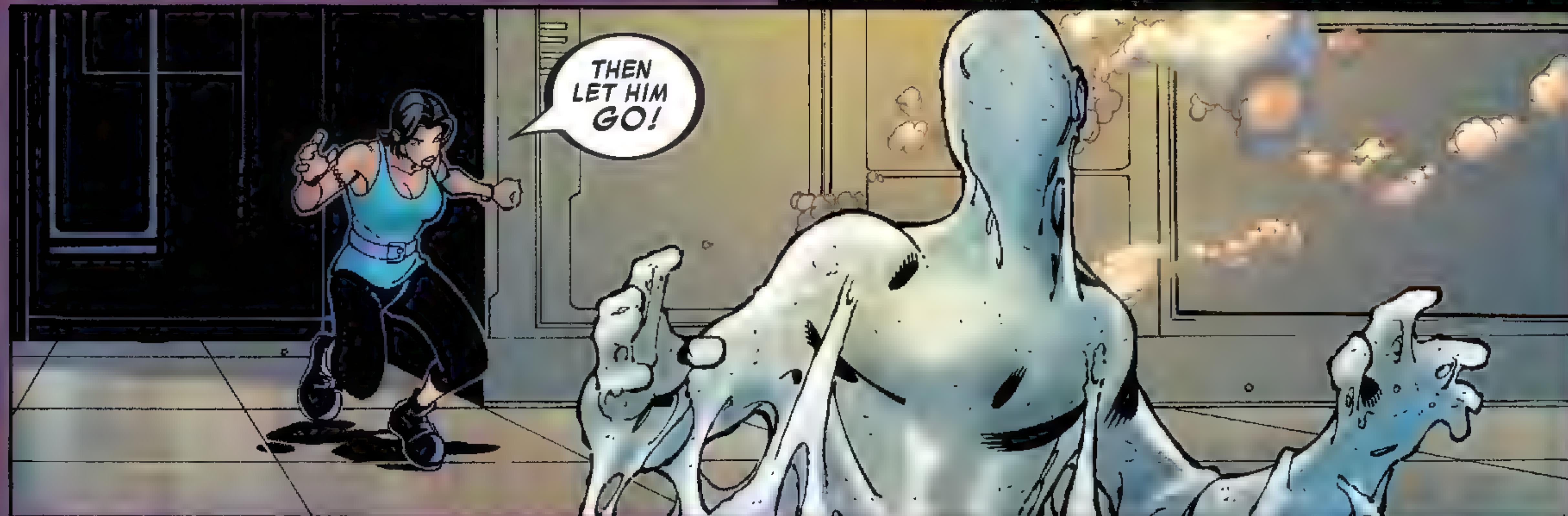
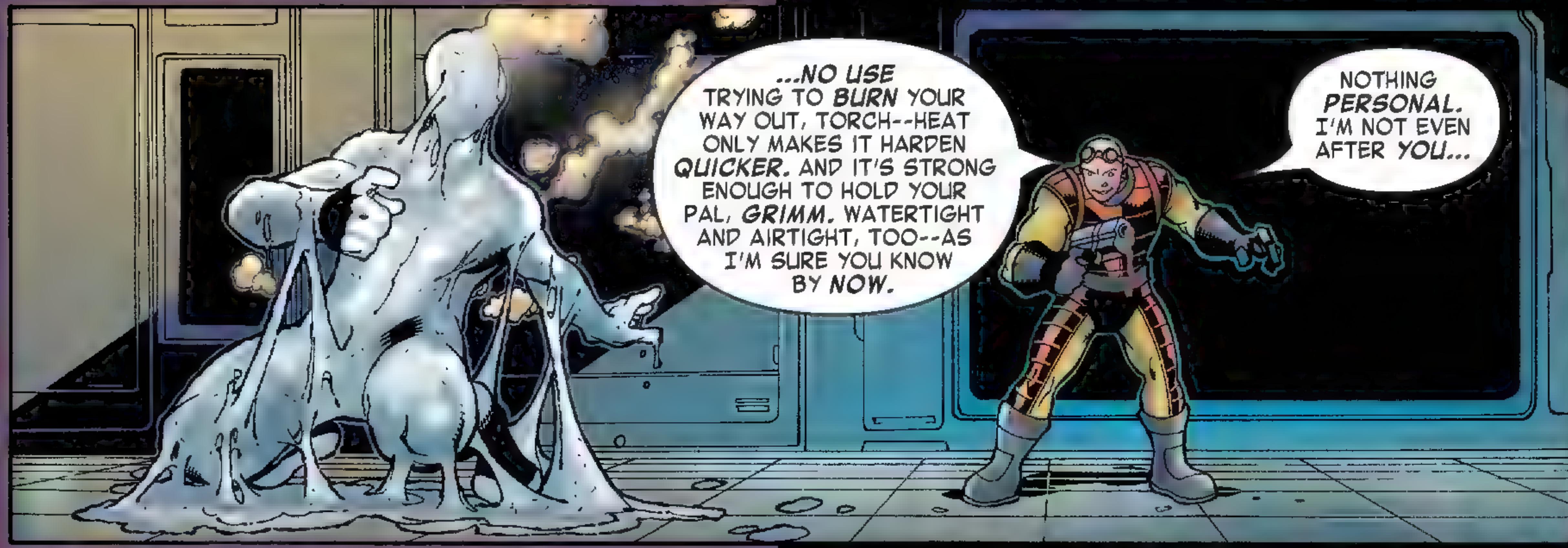


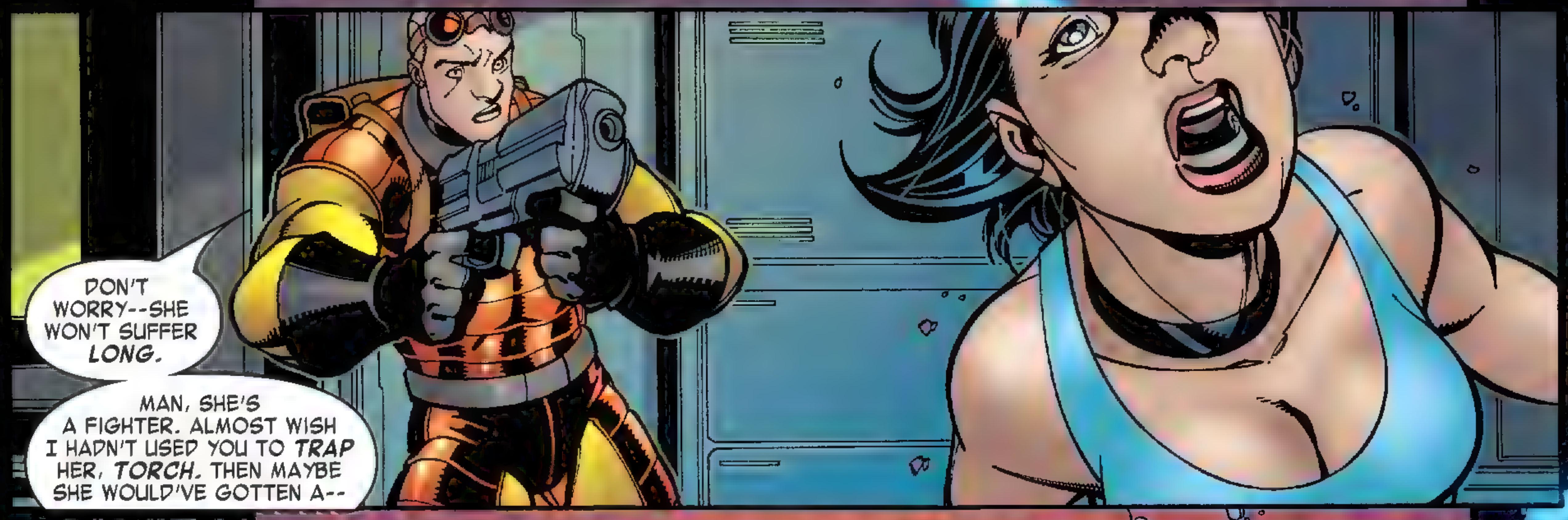






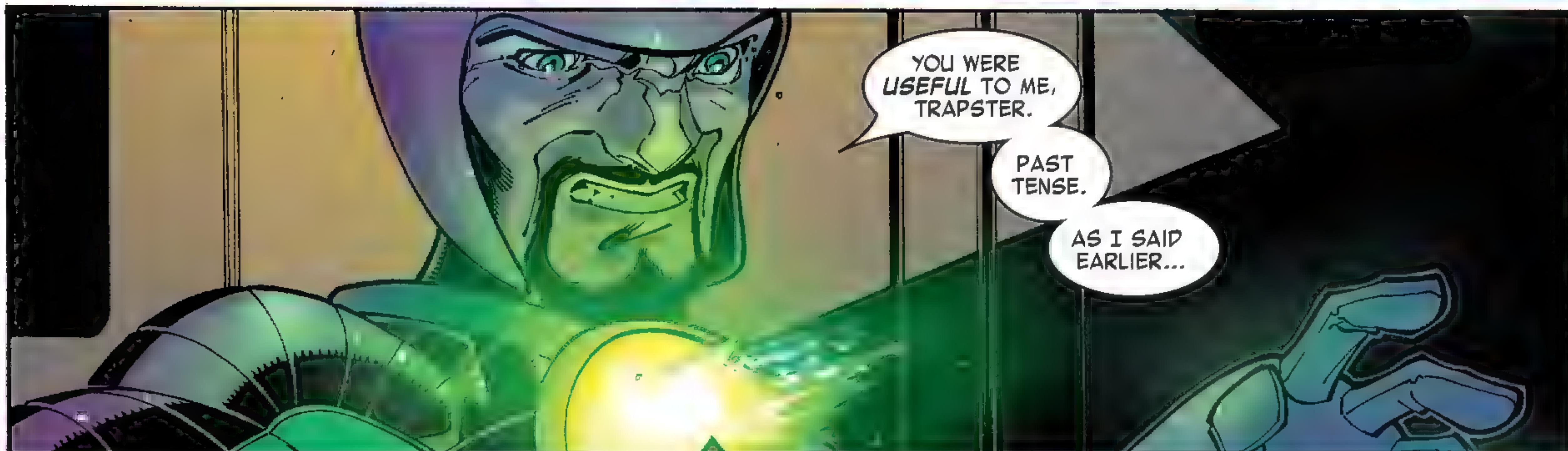


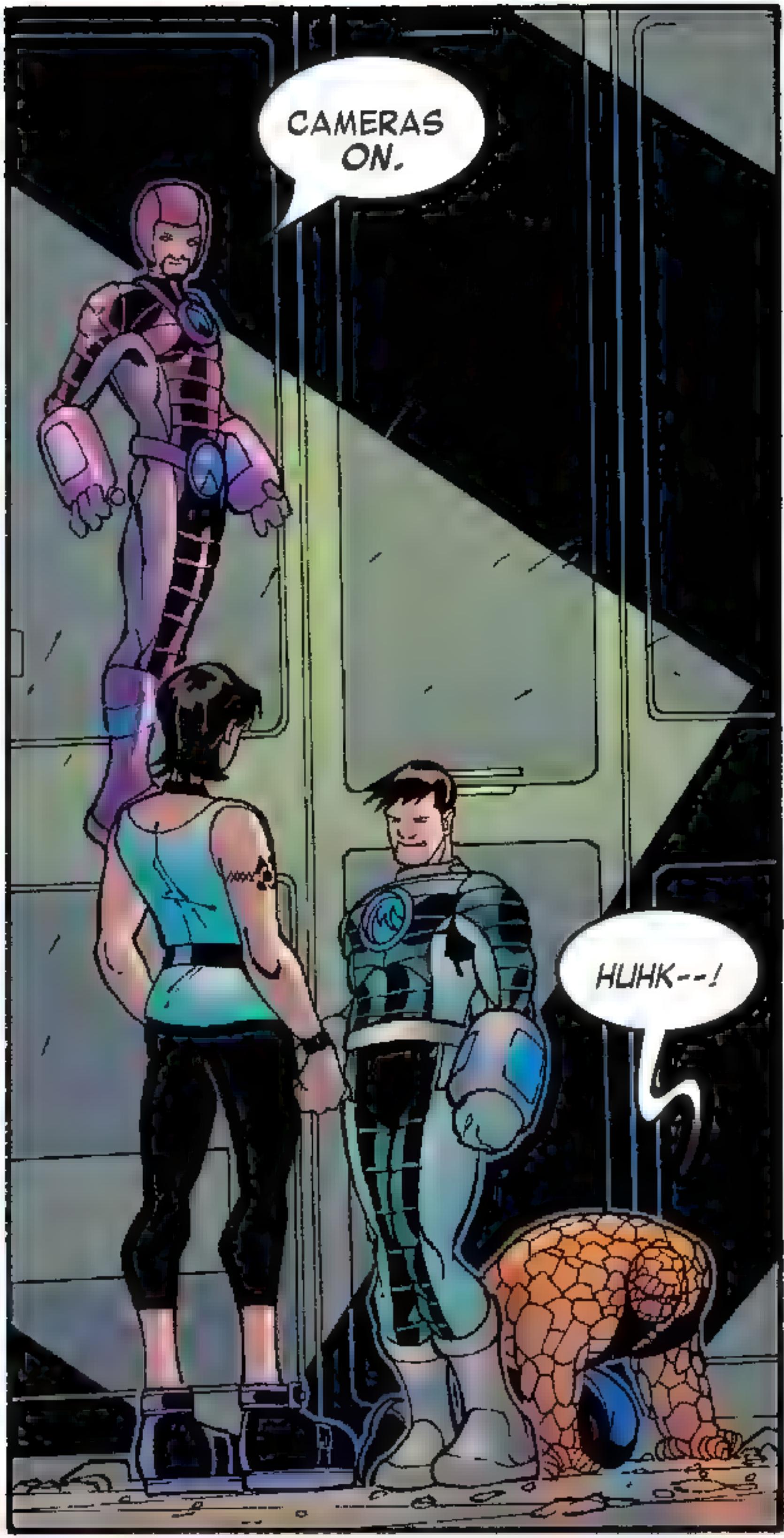
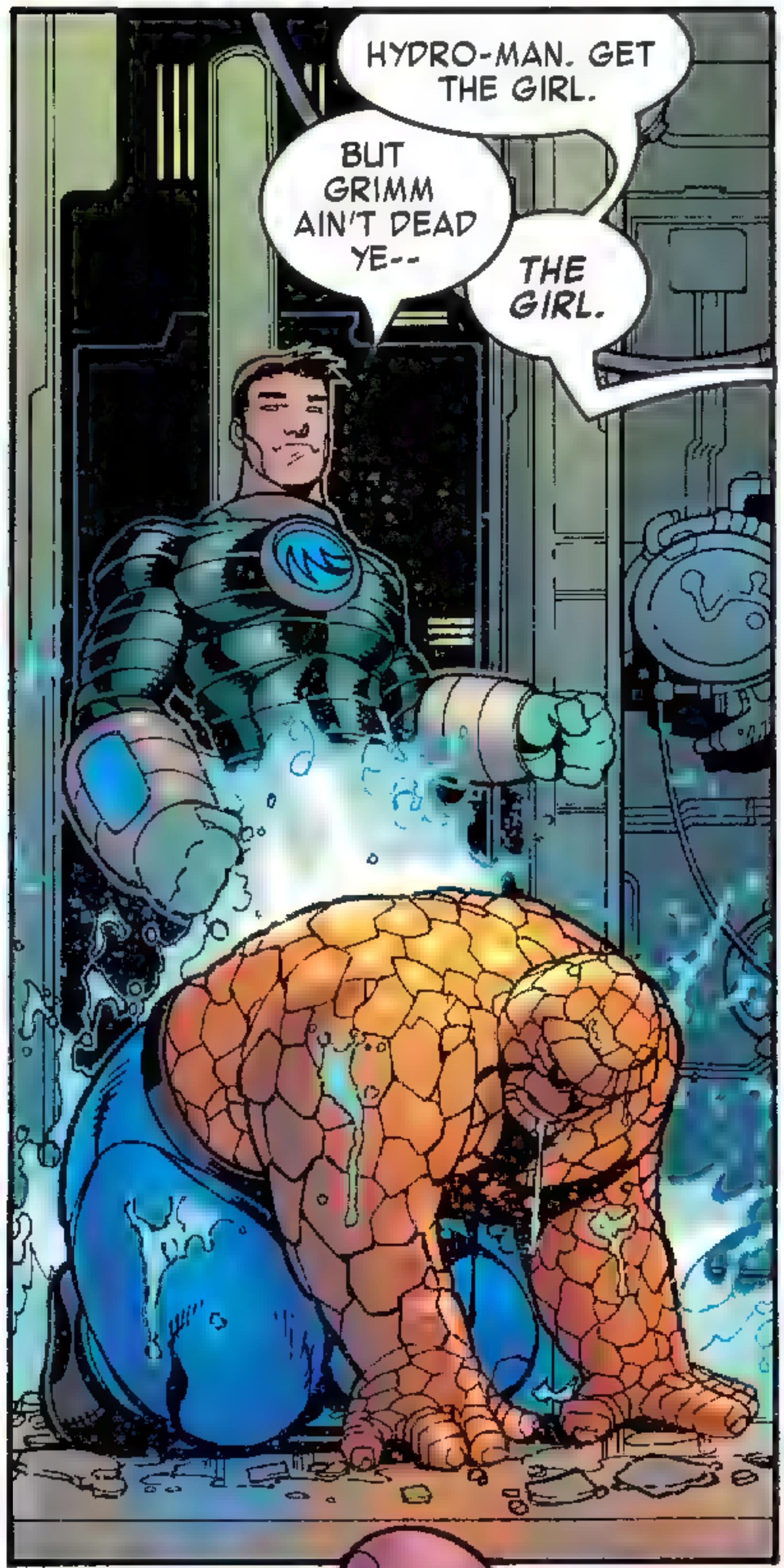
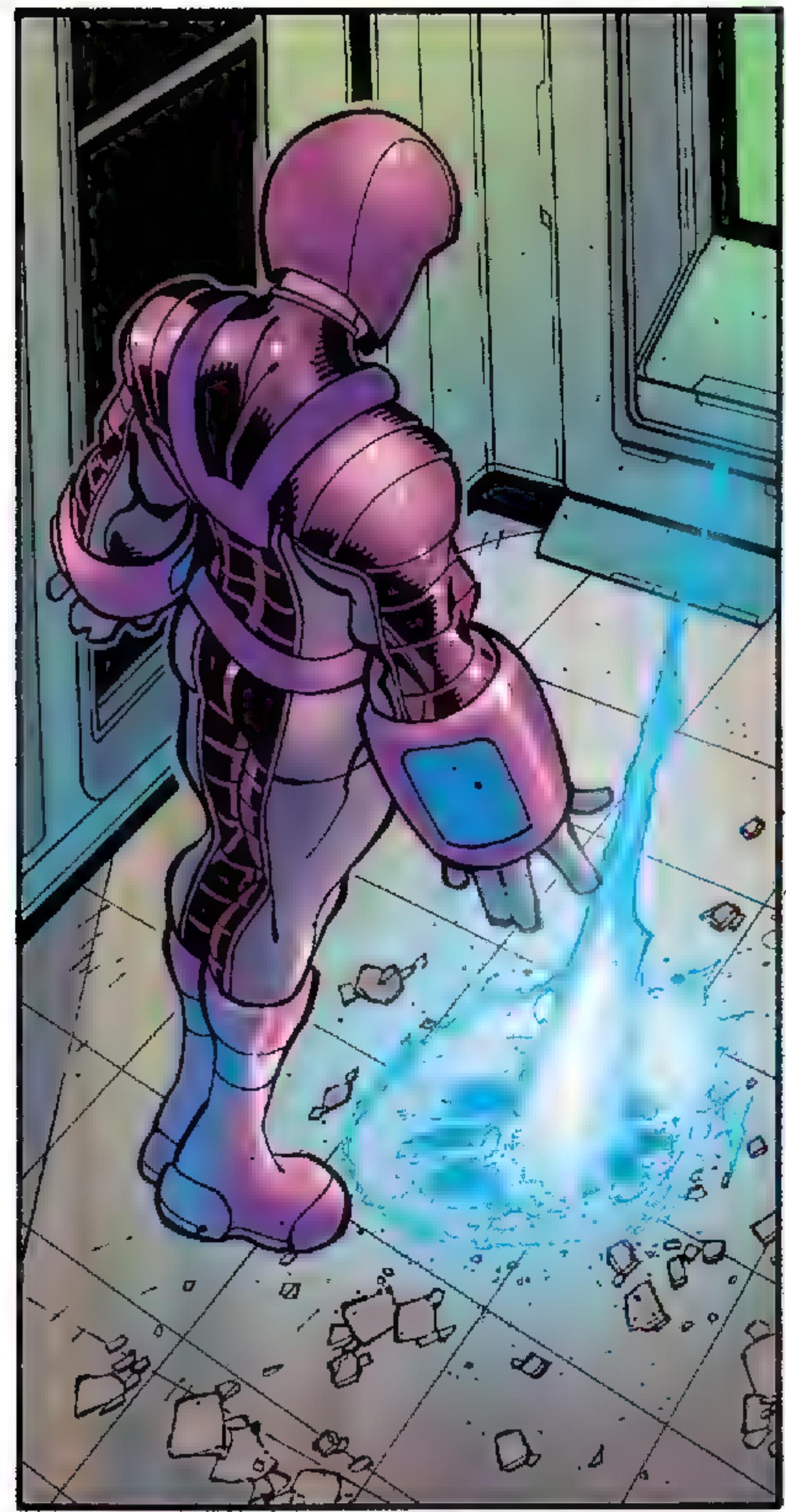


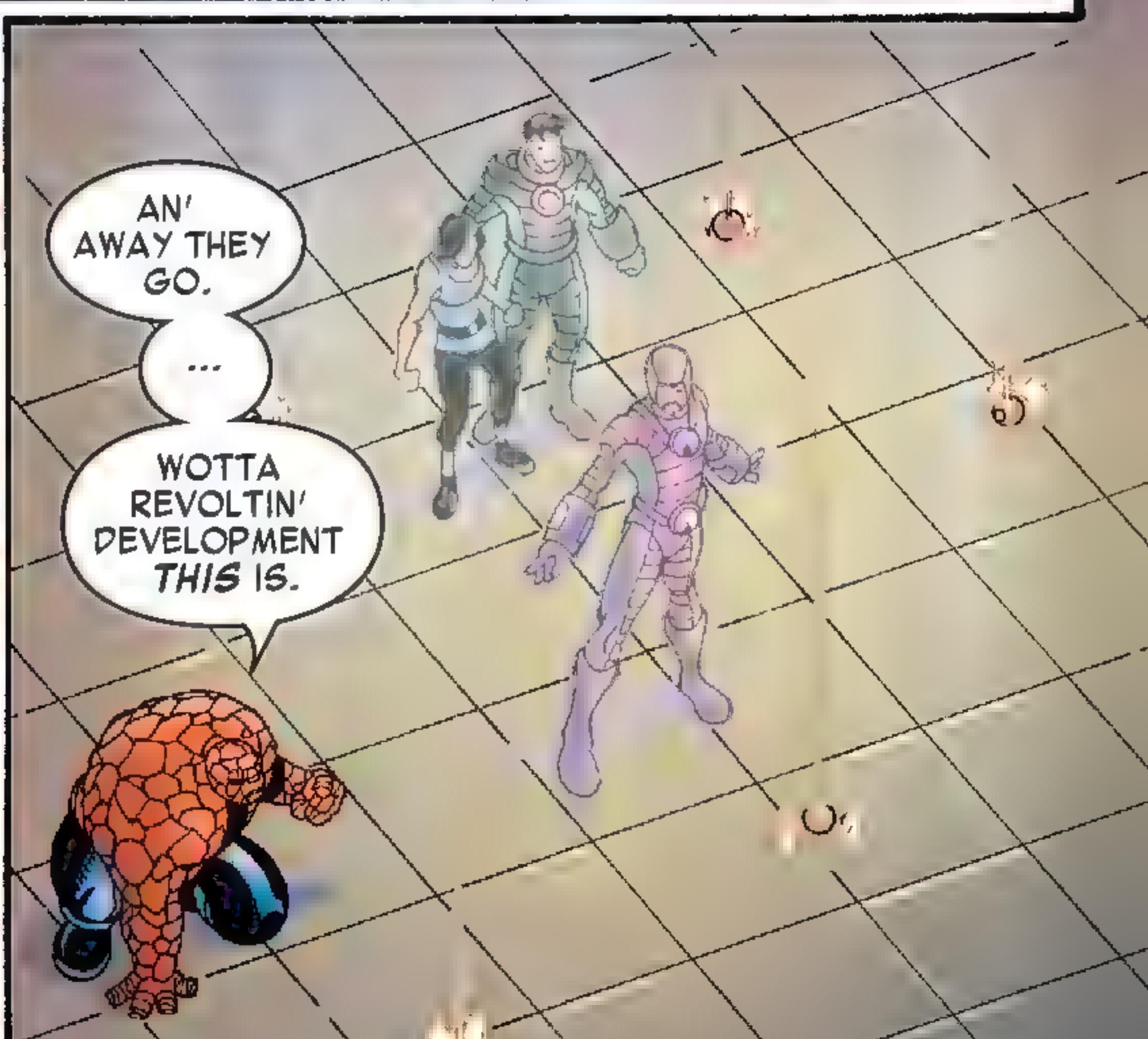
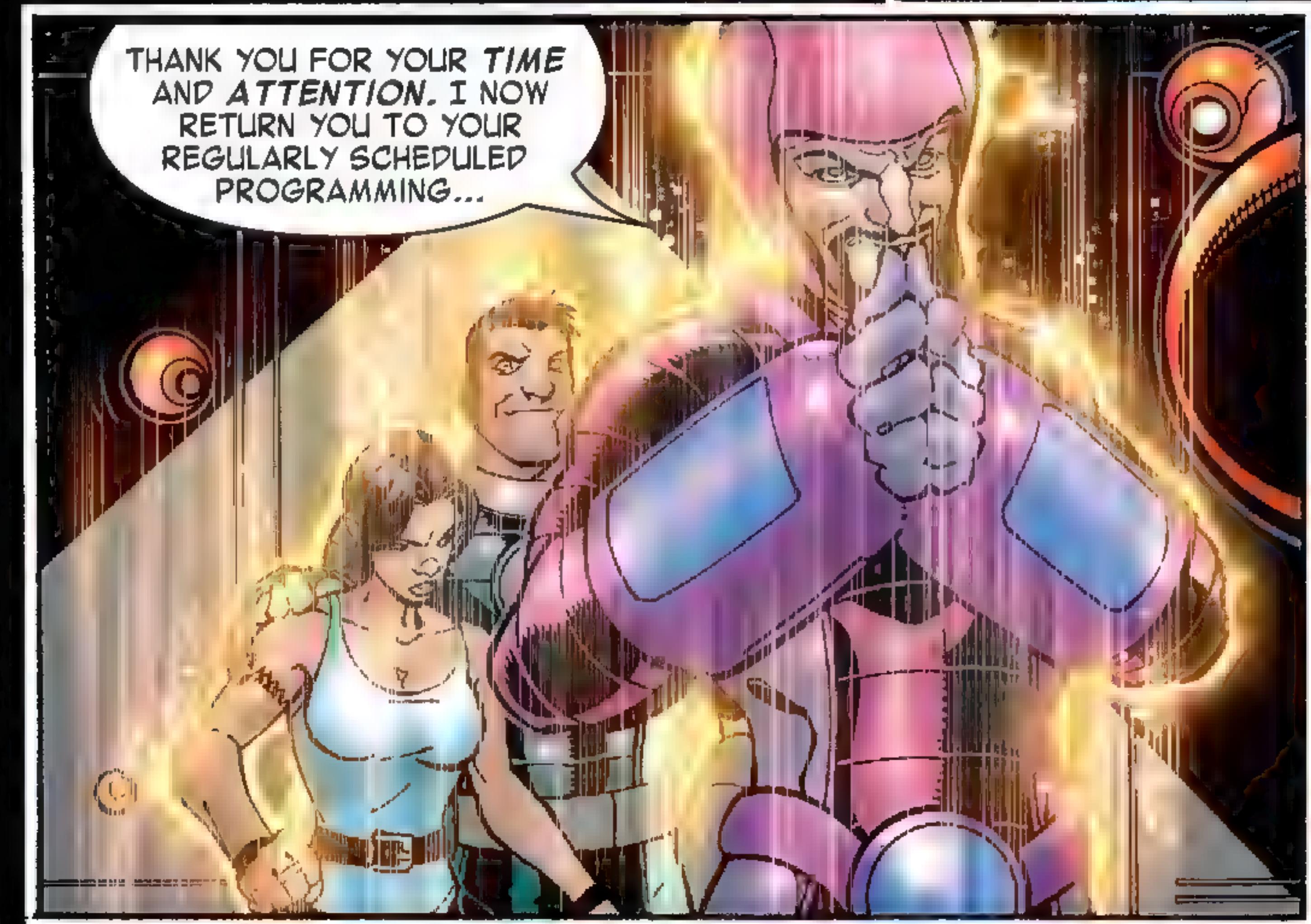
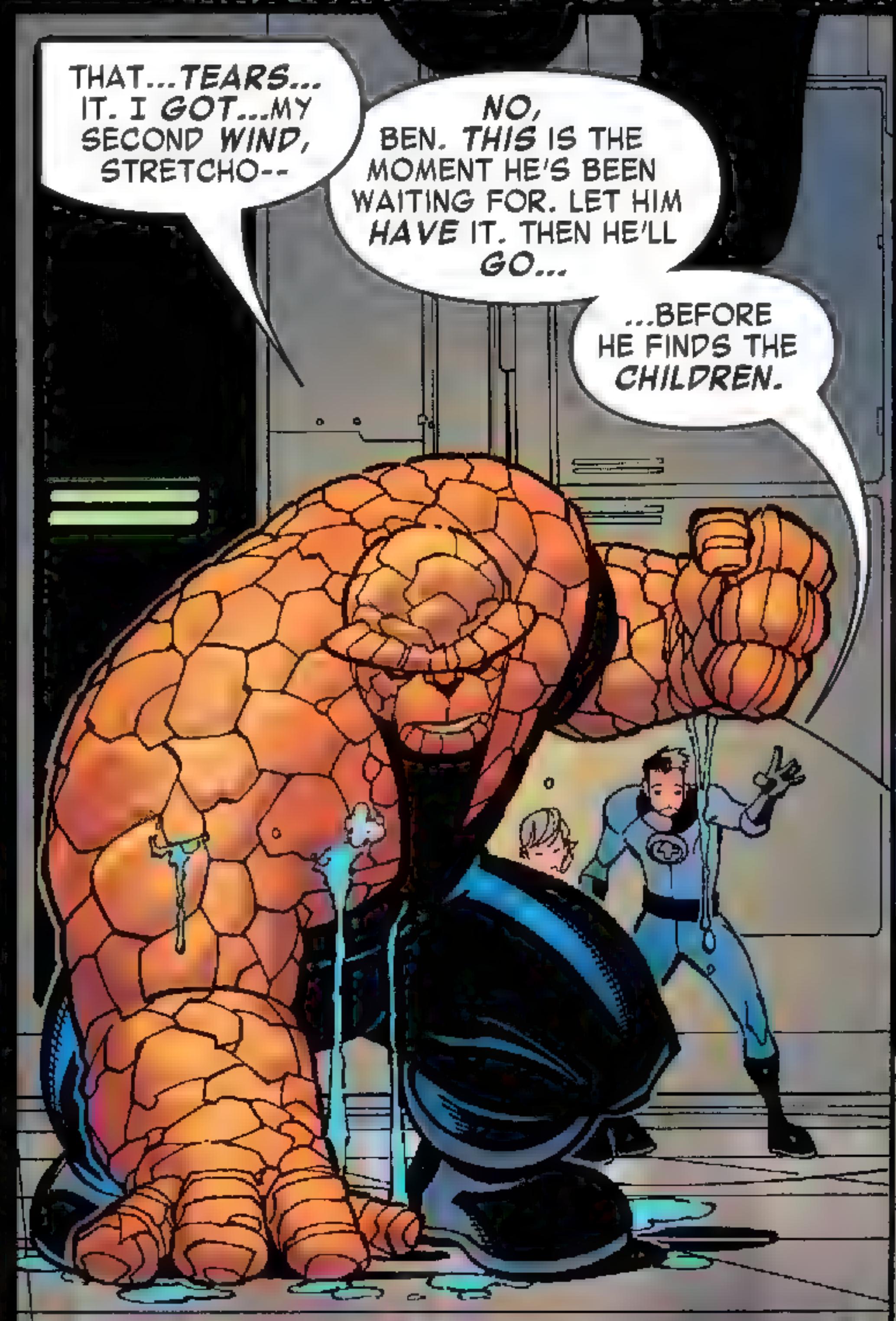
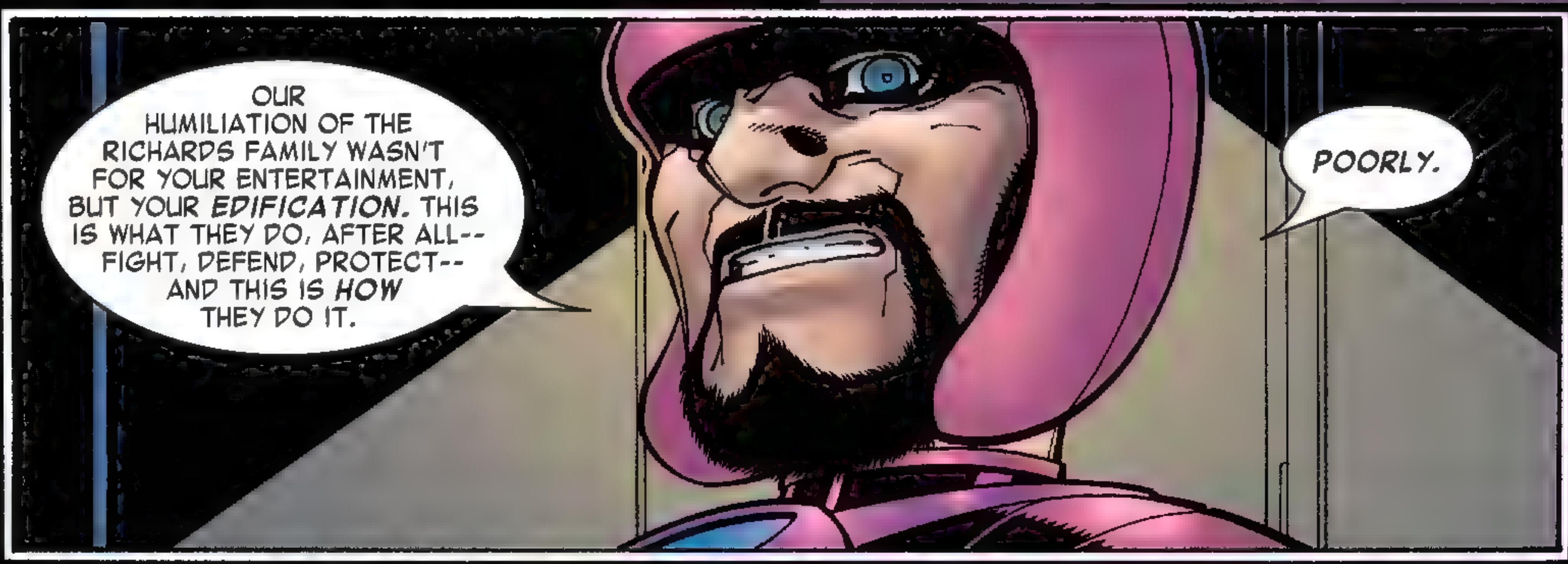


IT CONTINUALLY AMAZES
ME, TRAPSTER--HOW
MANY WAYS YOU CAN
BE WRONG!

I TOOK
YOU UNDER MY WING--
TRIED TO TEACH YOU,
TRAIN YOU--BUT YOU HAVE
NEVER DONE ANYTHING
RIGHT!

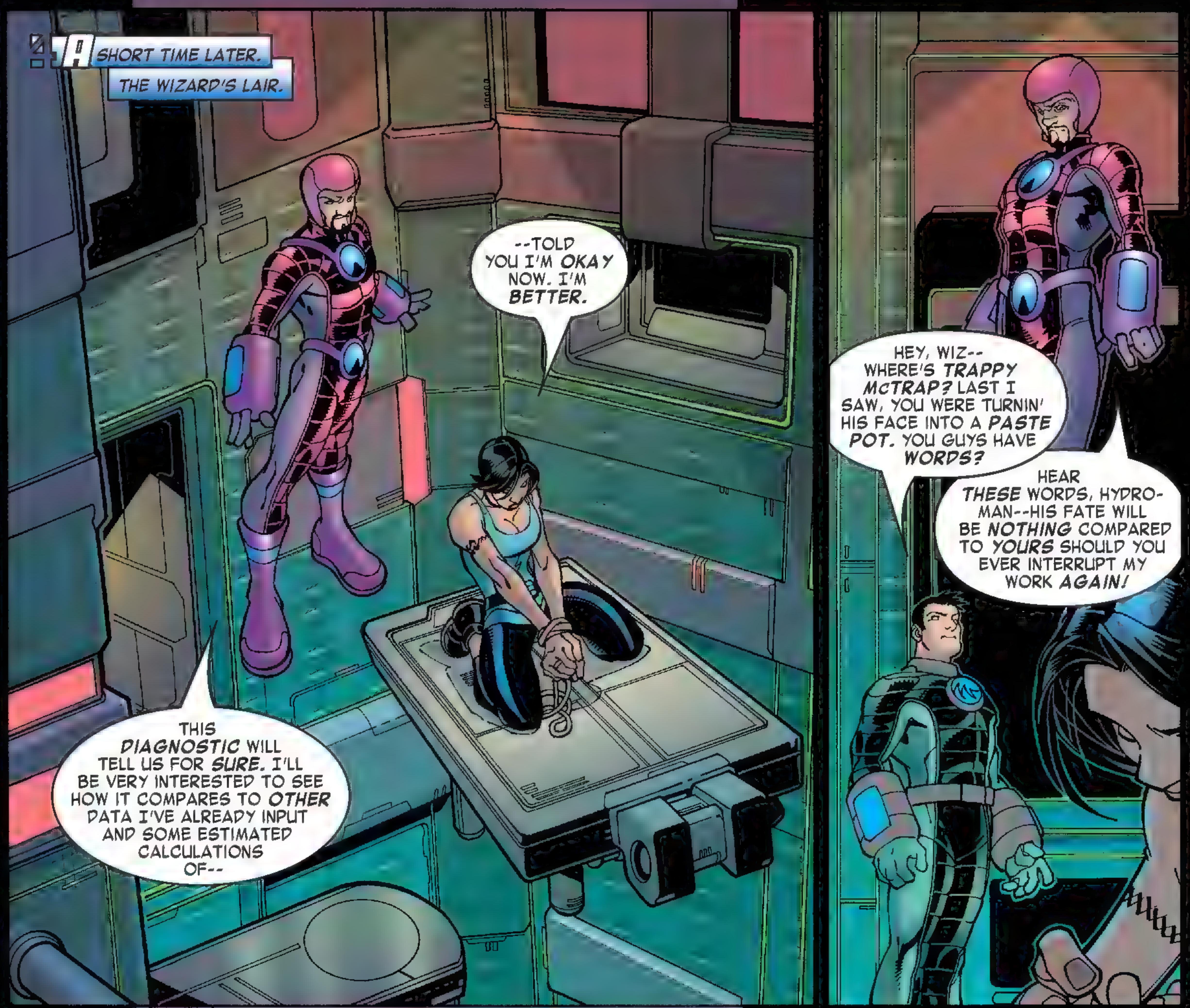






2A SHORT TIME LATER.

THE WIZARD'S LAIR.



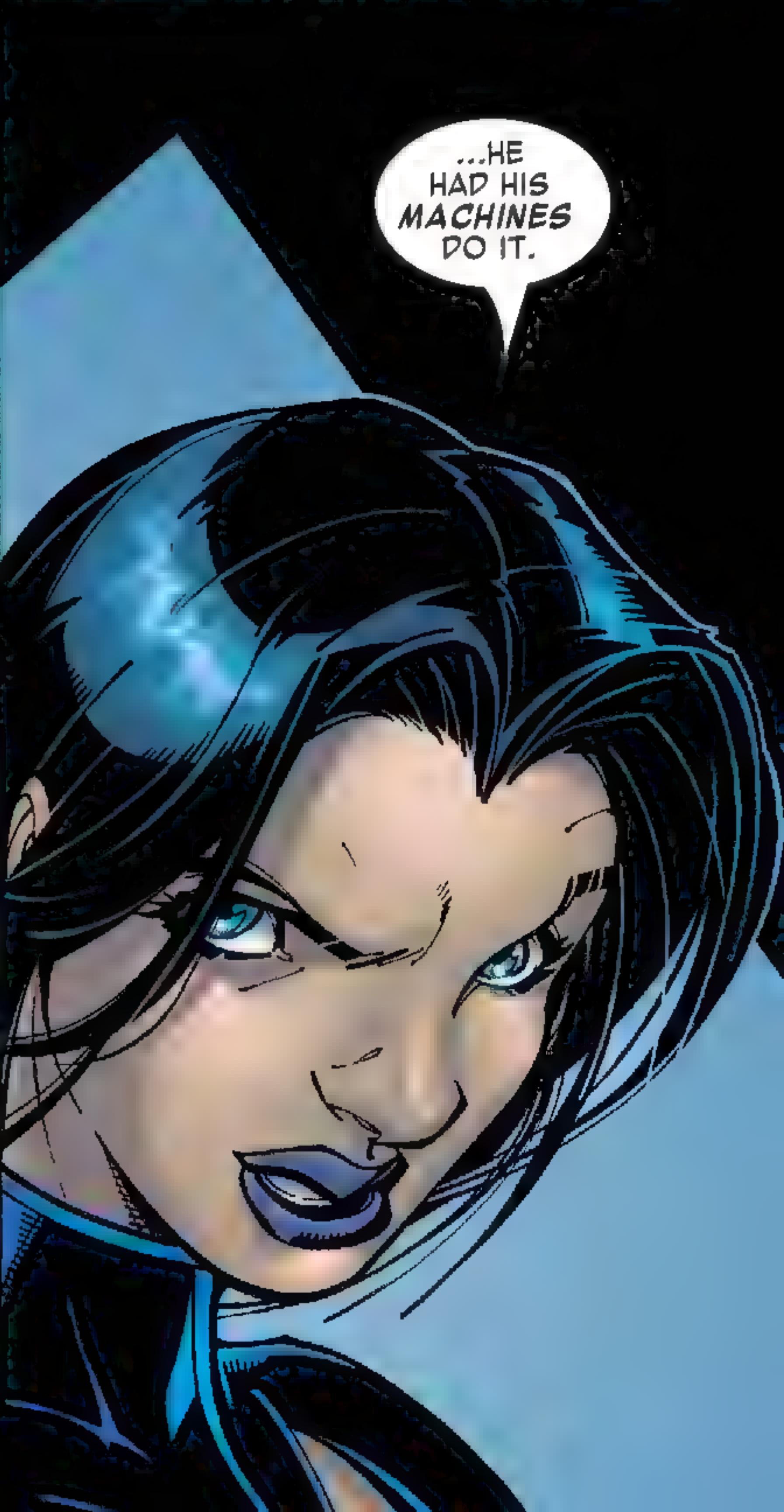
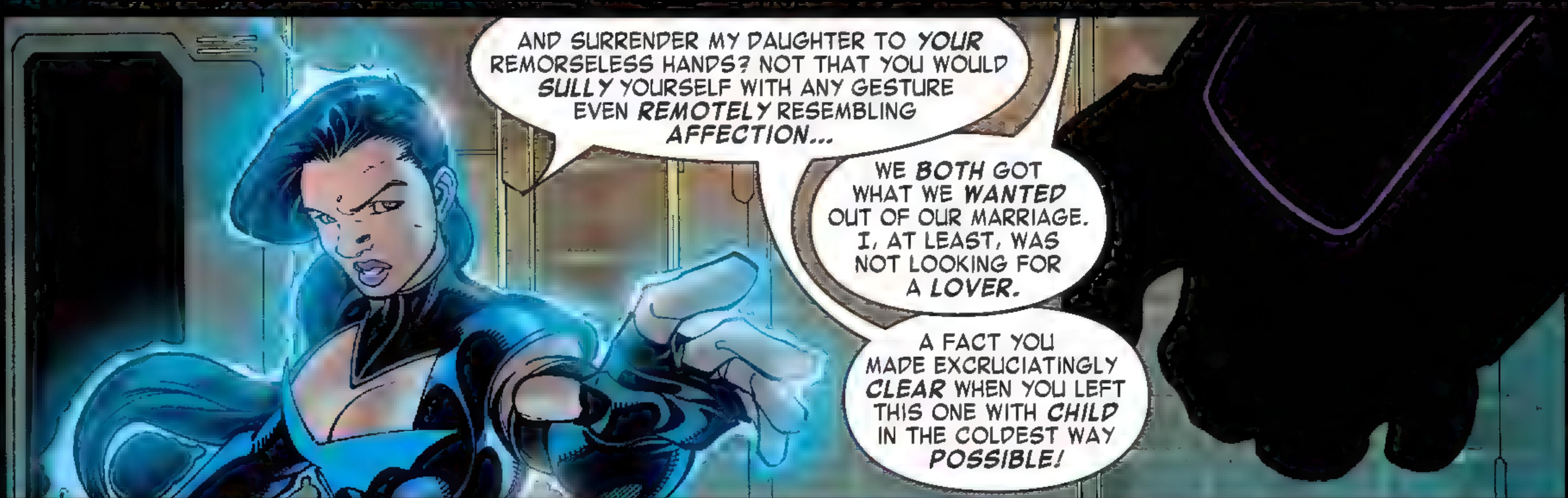
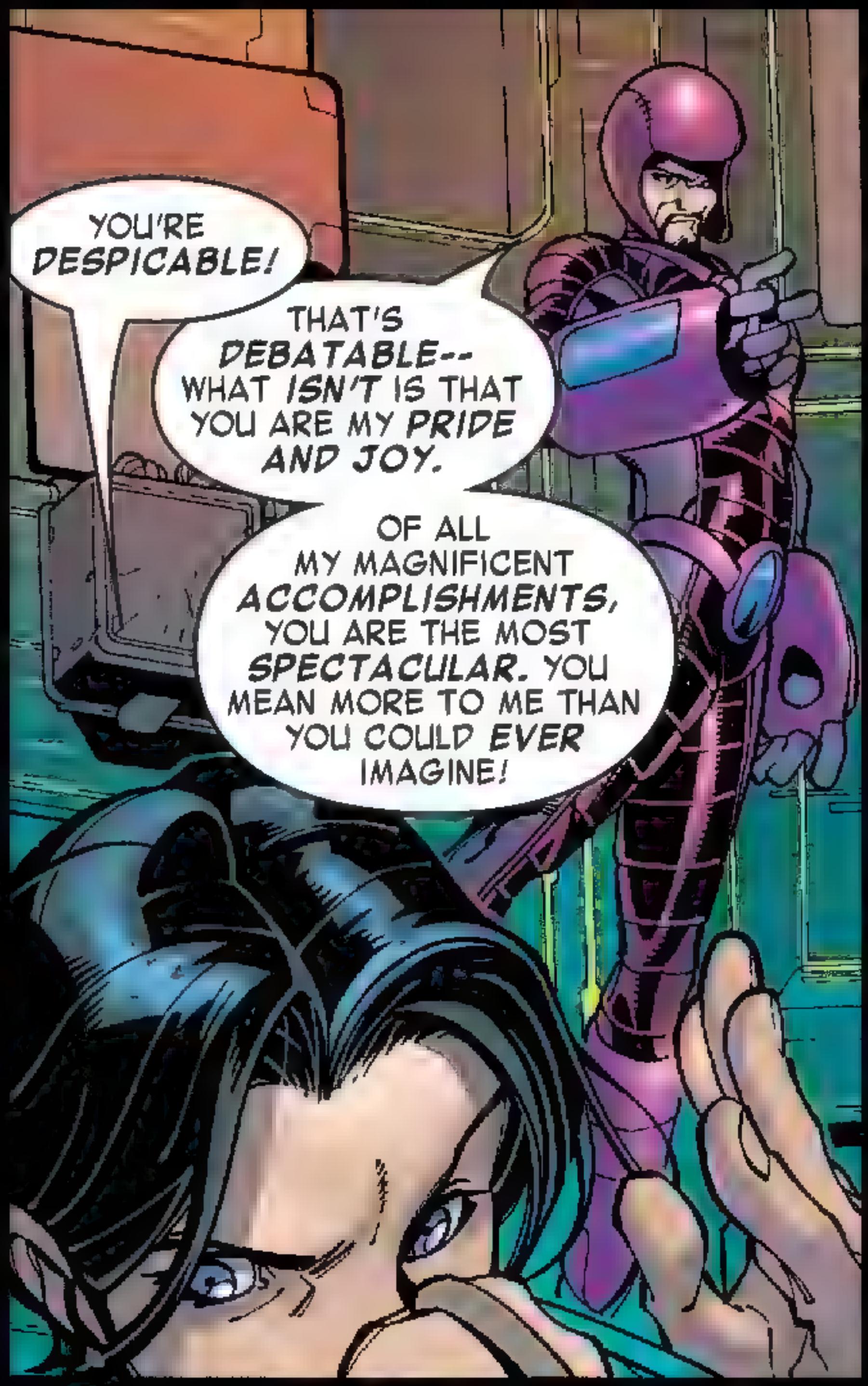
COLD-BLOODED MURDER IS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE UNCREATIVE, MY DEAR.

I EXPOSED HIM TO A PAIR OF BEAMS--TEMPORAL MARKERS THAT CREATED A SELF-CONTAINED CHRONOLICITY, OR TIME-LOOP.

THE TRAPSTER NOW RE-LIVES HIS LAST MOMENTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AD INFINITUM, WITH NO HOPE OF ESCAPE. THE ULTIMATE TRAP, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

I DID HIM A FAVOR. NOW THERE'S A REASON HE MAKES THE SAME BLUNDERS TIME AFTER TIME.





AND YOU WANTED TO ABORT
THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE
PROCESS OF GENETIC
MANIPULATION! YOU WOULD
HAVE--IF I HADN'T KEPT YOU
RESTRAINED AND SEDATED
DURING GESTATION! YOU
NEVER WANTED THIS
CHILD...

...AND
YET, YOU
TOOK HER
FROM ME!

YOU LET
THIS ONE LEAVE! YOU NEVER
PURSUED, NEVER INQUIRED, NEVER
CONTACTED SALAMANDRA AGAIN!
AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS,
SALAMANDRA FINALLY KNOWS WHY!

BECAUSE YOU HAD INSPECTED
THE CHILD IN THE LAST DAYS
BEFORE BIRTH AND FOUND HER
WANTING! SHE WAS NORMAL!
POWERLESS! YOU BELIEVED
WHATEVER YOU HAD DONE TO
HER HAD FAILED, AND SO
LOST ALL INTEREST...

...UNTIL YOU
SAW THAT BUILDING
FALL--THEN YOU KNEW!
AND THEN YOU WOULD
DO ANYTHING TO GET
HER BACK!

IS THAT
TRUE?

IT'S TRUE...THAT YOU
HAVE AMAZING ABILITIES--
JUST AS I PLANNED. WHY,
FROM WHAT I'VE SIMPLY
OBSERVED, YOU CAN
DISPLACE THE MASS
OF--

YOU
DID THIS
TO ME?!

YOU SAY THAT AS IF IT WERE
A CURSE. IT'S A GIFT.
WHAT I DO TO MANIPULATE
GRAVITY ARTIFICIALLY, YOU
CAN DO NATURALLY! THAT--
AND SO MUCH MORE!

I CAN GIVE
YOU CONTROL!
LET ME SHOW YOU
HOW!

DON'T YOU
REALIZE I'VE WAITED
MY ENTIRE LIFE FOR YOU?
YOU'RE A DREAM COME TRUE--
MY MOST WONDERFUL,
MOST PERFECT...

...EXPERIMENT...



YER SAYIN' ALL HE WANTED
WAS T' MAKE US LOOK
LAME? WELL, MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED!

THE WIZARD'S ALWAYS BEEN
OBSESSED WITH FAME, BEN. HE
HAD HIS FIFTEEN MINUTES BACK
WHEN HE WAS KNOWN PRIMARILY
AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST
INVENTOR--THEN THE SPOTLIGHT
LEFT HIM AND LANDED ON US AND
SOMETHING IN HIM JUST...
SNAPPED.

REMEMBER
HOW HE USED TO
FOCUS ON JOHNNY? I'M
SURE THAT'S BECAUSE
JOHNNY GOT THE
MOST PRESS.

HIS ARROGANCE
TURNED TO JEALOUSY,
THEN TO BITTER HATRED--
WITH ENOUGH FOR ALL
FOUR OF US. HE'S A
CLASSIC PSYCHIATRIC
CASE.

HE'S
NUTS.

THE IRONY IS THAT HE TRIES TO
PROVE HIS SUPERIORITY BY
IMITATING US--AS IF THE WHOLE
POINT IS TO BEAT US AT OUR
OWN GAME.

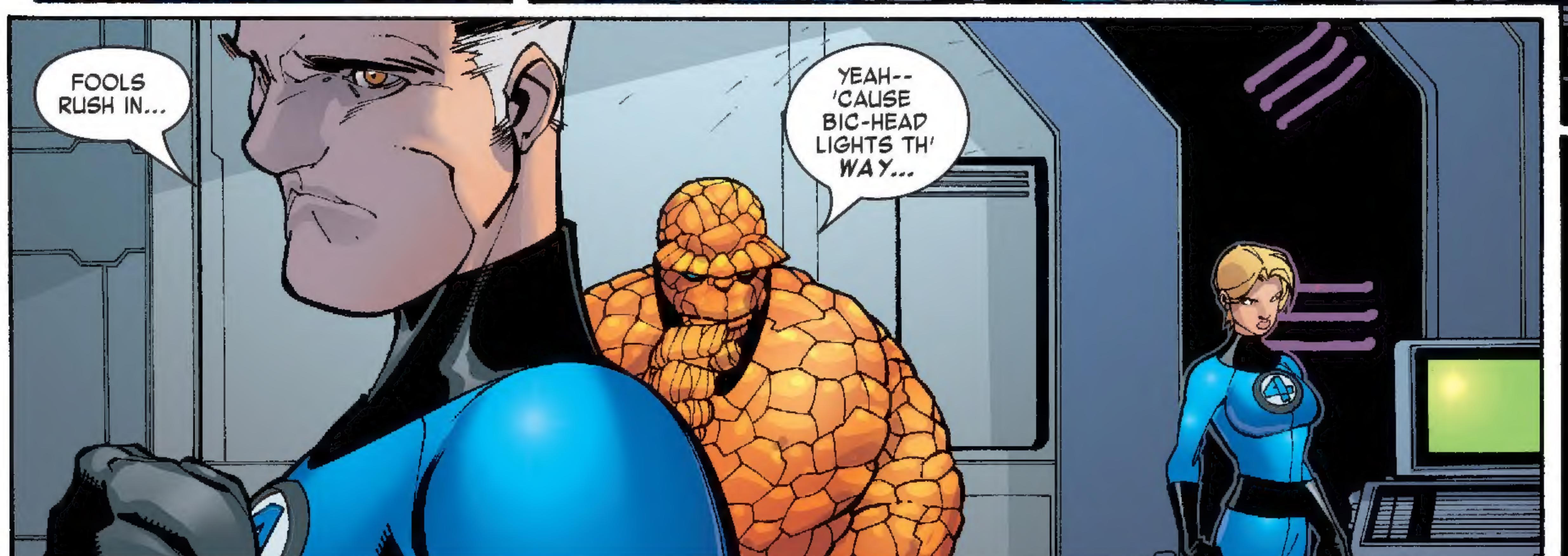
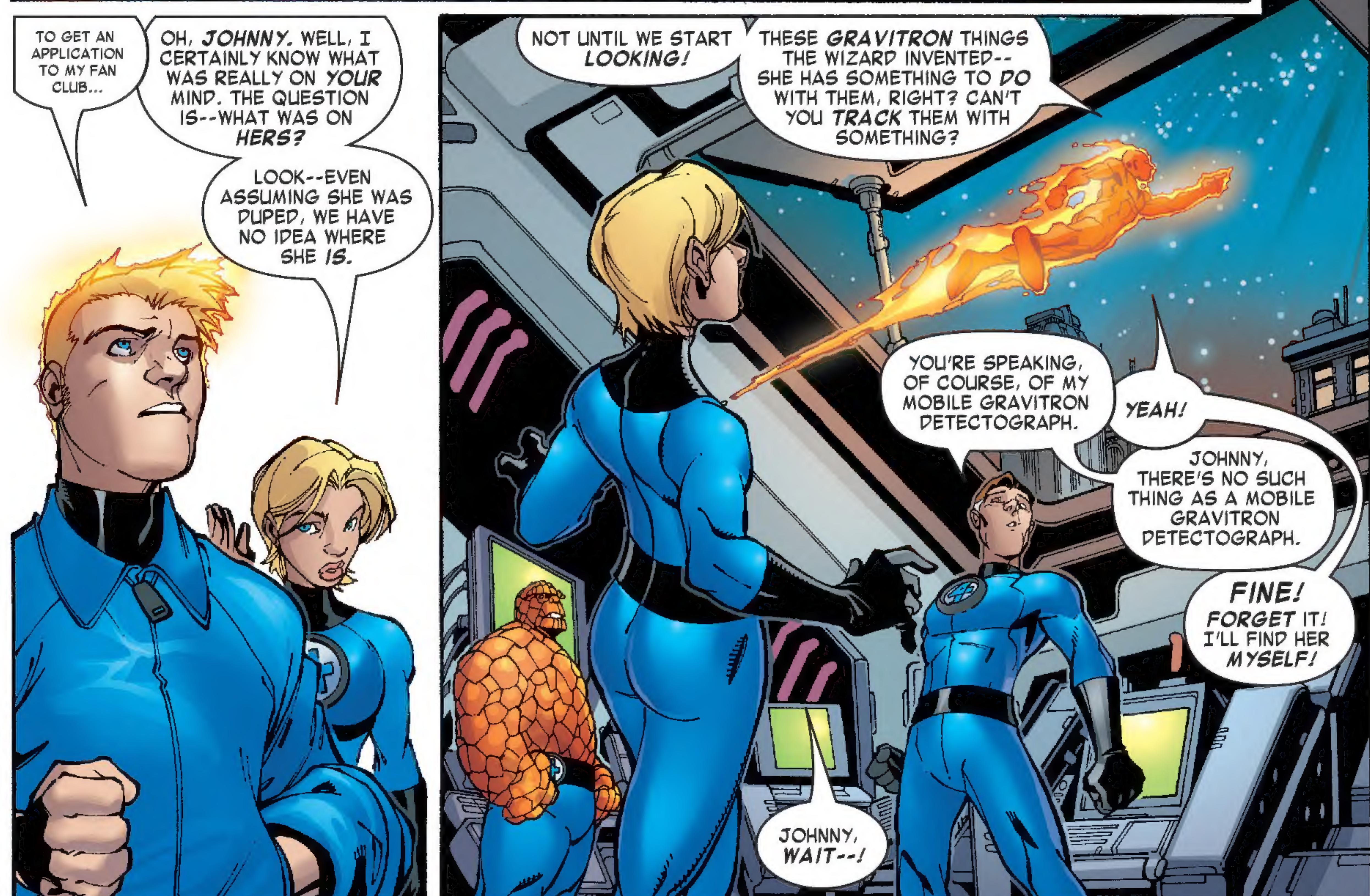
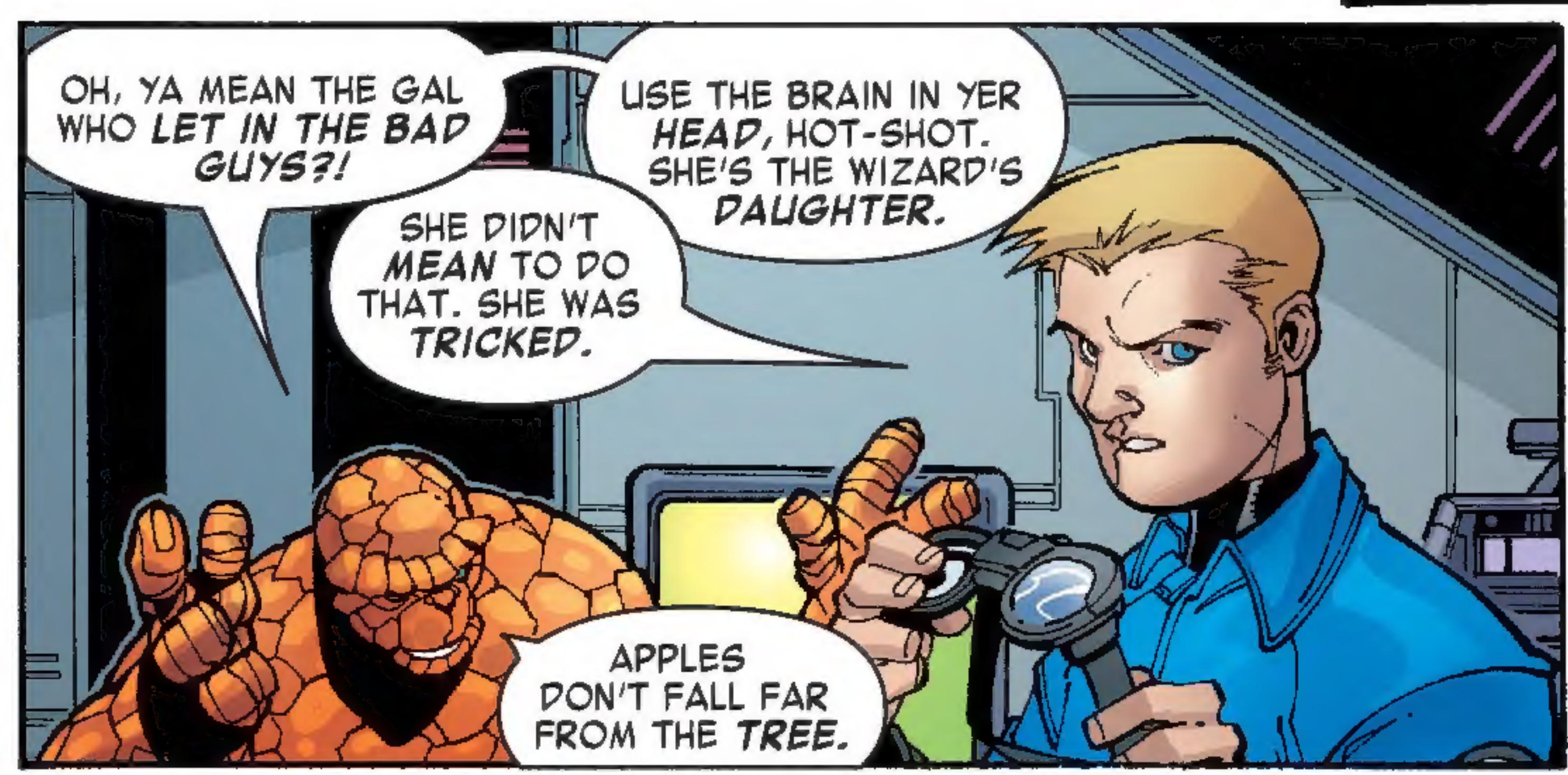
HOW MANY
VERSIONS OF HIS
"FRIGHTFUL FOUR" HAS
HE GONE THROUGH? IF
HE EVER FOUND ONE
THAT CLICKED...

AND HE'S
LIVING A DREAM NOW
THAT WE'VE BECOME PUBLIC
PARIADS. HE'S STARVING
TO SEE PEOPLE VILIFY US THE
WAY THEY'VE VILIFIED HIM. IN
HIS MIND, THAT'S A FATE
WORSE THAN DEATH.

I BELIEVE
HE ACTUALLY THINKS
THE FARTHER WE FALL, THE
FARTHER HE CAN RISE--AS
IF THERE'S A FINITE AMOUNT
OF FAME, AND THE LESS WE
HAVE, THE MORE THERE
IS FOR HIM.

...WE'D BE IN
TROUBLE.

WHAT
ABOUT COLE?
SHE'S IN TROUBLE
RIGHT NOW.



...EASIER
TIME FINDING A
STARBUCKS IN
THE NEGATIVE
ZONE...



WHERE
WOULD
SHE GO?
THINK.

THINK.
THINK,
THINK,
THINK,
THINK.

I HEAR THIS IS A
GOOD PLACE FOR
THAT.

HEY!

HEY YOURSELF.
WHAT'S UP?

ACTUALLY, I'M OUT
TRYING TO SAVE, UM...
YOU.

SORRY,
JOHNNY-- YOU'RE
ABOUT NINETEEN
YEARS TOO
LATE.

WELL, THIS CONVERSATION'S
OFF TO A GREAT START-- SO
WHY NOT GO FOR BROKE? DID
YOU KNOW THE WIZARD WAS
GOING TO--

HATE TO SAY IT BUT...
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE
YOU?

NO.

MAYBE
YOU SHOULDN'T.
JOHNNY, I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHICH PARTS OF
MY LIFE ARE LIES
ANYMORE.



YOU KNOW WHY I WANTED
TO MEET YOU AT FIRST?
THE REAL REASON?

BECAUSE I CAN
TOUCH THINGS AND
MAKE THEM HEAVIER OR
LIGHTER AND...AND THEN
HORRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN
AND I CAN'T CONTROL
IT. I DON'T WANT TO
CONTROL IT.

I WANT
TO STOP IT.
I WANT IT TO
GO AWAY.

AND
I THOUGHT ONLY ONE
MAN COULD CURE ME.
THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE
WORLD--REED RICHARDS.

FIGURED YOU WERE THE
FASTEST WAY TO CONNECT
TO HIM. SO I PLAYED
YOU, JOHNNY.

I USED
YOU.

MOTHER
WOULD BE SO
PROUD.

SO THAT'S IT.
THAT'S ALL.

EXCEPT ONE
THING.

TURNS OUT I
ACTUALLY LIKE
YOU!

IT
HAPPENS.

WASN'T
PART OF THE
PLAN, BELIEVE
ME. BUT YOU'RE
JUST SO...

IRRESISTIBLE?

...IN-
CORRIGIBLE.

SO...
WHAT
NOW?

I DON'T
KNOW. I'M TIRED OF
THINKING...TIRED OF
TALKING...

GUESS
THAT LEAVES
JUST ONE
THING...

